



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Billings Field Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101-4669  
[www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas](http://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas)



In Reply Refer To:  
1278 (MT954.AA)  
BLM-2019-00196  
MT-2019-12

December 6, 2018

## EMS TRANSMISSION – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Jimmy Tobias  
Pacific Standard  
801 Garden Street, Suite 101  
Santa Barbara, California 93101  
[64435-2484339@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:64435-2484339@requests.muckrock.com)

Dear Mr. Tobias:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana State Office received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on November 29, 2018. Your request has been assigned FOIA control number BLM-2019-00196. Please cite this number on future correspondence concerning your request.

In your request, you seek:

"Any and all written or electronic communications, including email attachments and texts, between the senior leadership of BLM's Montana State Office (including Acting State Director Jon Raby, Communications Director Al Nash, Deputy State Director Mike Philbin, Kimber Liebhauser, Kim Prill and/or Stephen Thompson) and any representative, agent, employee or executive of one or more of the following oil and gas firms: Highlands Natural Resources, Highlands Montana, and/or Halliburton."

We have classified you as a representative of the news media. As such, we may charge you for some of our duplication costs, but we will not charge you for our search or review costs; you also are entitled to up to 100 pages of photocopies (or an equivalent volume) for free. See 43 C.F.R. § 2.39. If, after taking into consideration your fee category entitlements, our processing costs are less than \$50.00, we will not bill you because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. See 43 C.F.R. § 2.37(g).

For your information, the BLM ordinarily has 20 workdays after the date of receipt to respond to a FOIA request. See 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 2.16.

If you have questions, please contact Sally Sheeks, State FOIA Coordinator, at (406) 896-5157; Lynnell Cellmer, Records Management Specialist, at (406) 896-5381; or by email at [blm\\_mt\\_foia@blm.gov](mailto:blm_mt_foia@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joshua F. Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joshua" being the most prominent part.

Joshua F. Alexander  
Acting Deputy State Director  
Division of Energy, Minerals & Realty